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PRESS RELEASE

Richard S. Hartunian, United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York announced that Brenda Derby, also known as Brenda Elman, of New Lebanon, New York, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Gary L. Sharpe to five years probation, with the conditions that she serve six months in home confinement and make full restitution to the government of \$43,519 in federal rental assistance payments that she stole between in or about August 1999 and in or about June 2006.

Derby, age 49, pled guilty on February 3, 2010, to the felony theft of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Section 8 Program," which provides rental assistance to low-income individuals. Derby admitted that she obtained employment in June 1999 as a word processor at a local law firm, but failed to report this new employment and her significantly higher income to the Section 8 Program. Moreover, she admitted that, in May 2000, she purchased a single-family residence in Rotterdam, New York, and that she jointly obtained a second residential property in West Lebanon, New York in July 2002, but that she failed to report her purchase or ownership of either property, which also would have made her ineligible for continued rental assistance payments.

The investigation in this matter was conducted by the Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The case was being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York.

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